

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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P.O. Box 127
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2013 Yukon River Fall Salmon Fishery News Release # 12 **Fall Announcement # 11, District 2 Commercial Period 4** Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

Based on the 2013 summer chum salmon run, the projected fall chum salmon run size is expected to be greater than 900,000 fish. This level of abundance should be adequate to meet escapement and subsistence priorities and provide for commercial harvest.

Fall chum salmon have been entering Yukon River at a steady rate. A second small group of fall chum salmon entered Yukon River between July 28 and July 29 and is currently passing by Pilot Station sonar. However, the first substantial pulse of fall chum salmon has yet to enter Yukon River. Through July 30, the cumulative fall chum salmon passage past Pilot Station sonar is approximately 106,000 fish, which is below the historical median of 128,000 fish for that date. Daily fall chum passages past Pilot Station sonar have been low the past several days, but should increase as this second group of fish passes by beginning today.

District Y-2

Commercial fishing will be open for one period in District Y-2 on Friday, August 2 from 2:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. This will be a 6-hour commercial fishing period. Gillnets are restricted to a maximum mesh size of 6 inches or less. No Chinook salmon can be sold during this commercial opening. Fishermen can release live Chinook salmon or use them for subsistence purposes. **Chinook salmon caught but not sold must be reported on fish tickets.**

Preliminary verbal reports from the District Y-2 commercial opening on July 28 indicate a harvest of 6,157 fall chum and 95 coho salmon from 93 permit holders. The preliminary cumulative commercial harvest for District Y-2 is 24,802 fall chum and 145 coho salmon.

District Y-2 commercial fishermen are requested not to fish on the south bank of Yukon River in front of the Pilot Station sonar site from an ADF&G buoy just upstream of the sonar to an

ADF&G marker 500 yards downstream. Commercial fishing in this area interferes with sonar operations and can affect fish counts. The department thanks commercial fishermen for their continued cooperation.

In District Y-2 subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days per week except for 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours after each commercial fishing period. Subsistence fishing in District Y-2 will close at 2:00 a.m. Friday, August 2 and will reopen at 8:00 a.m. Saturday, August 3.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates will be available 24 hours a day at 949-1731 or toll free at 1-866-479-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Emmonak ADF&G office at 949-1320. The Emmonak ADF&G office will stand by on VHF channel 7A.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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